

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Contact: Amy Rezzonico, Press Secretary (602) 542-5072

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ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF ANNOUNCES 82 PERCENT OF ARIZONA SCHOOLS MAKES ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP)

PHOENIX (Wednesday, September 1, 2004) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today released some overall results for the number of schools that made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). 82 percent (1,432) of Arizona schools made AYP in 2004, up from 76 percent (1,294) in 2003. AYP is a federally mandated performance goal, and is a core component of NCLB (No Child Left Behind). The Department will release the detailed AYP results tomorrow, September 2 at 9:00 a.m.

“It is encouraging that the number of schools making AYP increased. I am committed to using the Department as a service provider for those schools that didn’t make AYP,” Horne stated.

AYP is measured using data from the AIMS test and requires that 95 percent of the students in a school take the test. It also requires that students from all applicable ethnic and social backgrounds in a school pass the test. Failure of even one demographic subgroup to pass the test or not achieve 95 percent attendance when it’s given, results in failure for the entire school regardless of all other students. In addition, elementary school attendance, and high school graduation rates are factored into AYP.

“I would encourage parents to focus on the state’s accountability profiles that will be released on October 15. Under the federal system, there are a 144 ways for schools to fail. Although the number of schools making AYP increased, it is important to note that the state system is more comprehensive and fair, and the focus should be on the state results,” Horne concluded.

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